

PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Placido Gonzalez-Hernandez, 25, Pursima de Arista, Queretaro, Mexico, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to two years in prison for illegally re-entering the United States after having been previously deported. Gonzalez-Hernandez pleaded guilty to this offense on January 10, 2007.

Agents of the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement were alerted to Gonzalez-Hernandez's presence in the United States following his arrest in Dane County, Wisconsin, in 2005. Gonzalez-Hernandez had been formally deported from the United States once in 1997 and on three occasions in 2002. Gonzalez-Hernandez was also previously convicted of illegal entry into the United States in 2002.

Judge Crabb sentenced Gonzalez-Hernandez to the maximum possible penalty in this case, departing upward from the sentence suggested by Federal Sentencing Guidelines. Judge Crabb noted that at 25 years old, Gonzalez-Hernandez had such a lengthy criminal record that it was shocking. Judge Crabb remarked that Gonzalez-

Hernandez appeared to make no effort to live his life differently and that he was bent on breaking the law. Of most concern to Judge Crabb was the fact that Gonzalez-Hernandez has been deported or removed in excess of twenty times from the United States. Judge Crabb recognized that while Gonzalez-Hernandez did not have much education, nor did he appear to have much positive influence early on in his life, at some point one has to take responsibility for their actions and to date he had not done so.

The charges against Placido Gonzalez-Hernandez were the result of an investigation conducted by the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura A. Przybylinski Finn.

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